institutional agencies/fertilizer companies in major fertilizer consuming States to the tune of 6.25 LMT, 3.50 LMT and 1.00 LMT respectively;

(iv) Department of Fertilizers has notified uniform freight subsidy scheme to transport fertilizers upto block level;

(v) The gap between requirement and indigenous availability of urea is met through imports; and

(vi) New pricing policy for attracting investment in urea sector has been announced on 4th September, 2008. Further, fertilizer sector has been given highest priority in allocation of gas, for debottlenecking, expansion and revival projects in the country.

Removal of toxic waste generated by Union Carbide

†944. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who died due to leakage of gas in the Union Carbide plant in 1984;

(b) the quantum of toxic waste left in the complex;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to check the toxicity of the said waste after 25 years;

(d) whether the State Government of Gujarat has filed a petition in the Supreme Court against decision of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh to dump toxic waste in Ankleshwar in Gujarat; and

(e) whether Central Government has to present its view in the Supreme Court, if so whether it has presented its views in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) As per information received from the Office of the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, Bhopal, 5295 people died due to leakage of MIC gas in the Union Carbide plant in 1984.

(b) As per information received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, 346 MT of stored toxic wastes are lying at the former Union Carbide Plant Limited (UCIL) site at Bhopal.

(c) The Defence Research and Development Establishment (DRDE), Gwalior in June, 2008 conducted Acute Oral Toxicity Studies in rats and Primary Skin Irritation Test in rabbits of the stored toxic wastes at former UCIL plant site at Bhopal. In their report on acute oral toxicity, the report has concluded that all the samples *viz.* excavated waste, lime sludge, Napthol tar, reactor residue, semi processed pesticide and Sevin tar were having very low mammalian toxicity. With regard to Primary Skin Irritation Test, the report has concluded that all the samples were found to be non-irritant to the rabbit's skin.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) and (e) The State Government of Gujarat has filed two SLPs (No. 21936/2008 and No. CC 292 of 2009) in the Supreme Court against the Madhya Pradesh High Court Orders dated 15.7.2008 and 16.12.2008 containing direction for incineration of the 346 MT of toxic waste of former UCIL plant site at Bharuch Enviro Infrastructure Limited (BEIL) incinerator, Ankleshwar. In response to the counter-affidavit filed by this Department on behalf of Union of India, the Government of Gujarat filed an affidavit on 13th April, 2009 raising certain issues of alleged technical deficiencies and legal aspects pertaining to the BEIL incinerator at Ankleshwar. The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals on behalf of Union of India sought extension of time from the Supreme Court to enable resolution of the issues raised in the affidavit filed by Government of Gujarat. The Court was pleased to grant extension of time. The case is listed for hearing on 22.01.2010.

Requirement and availability of fertilizers

945. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is an acute shortage of fertilizers of all kinds all over the country and particularly in remote areas;

(b) the demand of different fertilizers by different States in the country and the availability of the same; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to make arrangements for supply of enough fertilizers of all kinds to avoid over pricing by suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers *viz.* DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Union Government monitors availability of fertilisers at State level. State Governments are responsible for distribution of fertilizers within the State.

The State-wise cumulative requirement (demand), availability and sales of Urea, DAP, MOP and complex fertilizers during 2009-10 (April '09 to October '09) is given at Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ No. 938 Part (a) to (c)]. As can be seen, the availability of urea has been adequate. There has been a little tightness in availability of complex (NPK) fertilizers because of low level of indigenous production and also as these can not be imported.

(c) The steps taken for supply of fertilizers and avoiding over pricing by suppliers are as under:—

(i) The movement of fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (*www.urvarak.co.in*) also called as Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS);